

BENJAMIN RUDIN (State Bar No. 292341)
3830 VALLEY CENTRE DR.
STE. 705, #231
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92130
Telephone: (858) 256-4429
Email: ben@benrudin.law

Attorney for Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
FRESNO DIVISION

KEVIN HAGAN

Plaintiff,

v.

Dr. J. Sandhu in an official capacity, Dr.
Harinder Longia, Dr. Monivirin Son, Dr.
Jason Mevi, and Dr. Happy Eskander, in
their individual capacities.

Defendants.

Case No.: 1:22-cv-00562-JLT-EPG

**THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER,
INJUNCTION, AND DAMAGES**

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff Kevin Hagan (“Plaintiff”) is an inmate within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (“CDCR”).

2. Defendants Dr. Harinder Longia (“Dr. Longia”), Dr. Monivirin Son (“Dr. Son”), Dr. Jason Mevi (“Dr. Mevi”), and Dr. Happy Eskander (“Dr. Eskander”) are also employees of VSP and are sued in their individual capacities.

3. Defendant Dr. J. Sandhu (“Dr. Sandhu”) is an employee at VSP and Plaintiff’s current doctor, and is sued in his official capacity.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. Jurisdiction is conferred on this Court under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1343(a)(3) and 1343(a)(4) because this suit is brought primarily under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Jurisdiction is also conferred by 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the cause of action arises under the Constitution and laws of the United States. Jurisdiction is conferred for the remaining issues by 28 U.S.C. § 1367 because they form part of the same case or controversy. Jurisdiction is also conferred on this Court by 18 U.S.C. § 3626 because it includes a request for injunctive relief in a civil action related to prison conditions.

5. Venue is proper in the United States District Court, Eastern District of California under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to this claim occurred there. Venue is also proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) because Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that some

1 defendants reside in the Eastern District of California, and all defendants reside in
2 California.
3

4
5 FACTS
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7 6. Plaintiff has a history of chronic back pain.

8 7. On April 7, 2016, Plaintiff saw Dr. Frank Yoo ("Dr. Yoo") for his back injuries,
9 who wanted to see the x-ray films before deciding on surgical treatment, and asked
10 Plaintiff be treated with more potent pain medication as needed. (Exhibit K).
11

12 8. On May 27, 2016, Dr. Michael Santos ("Dr. Santos") documented that Plaintiff
13 was "seen by neurosurgeon 5/19/2016 and was noted to have L5 screw that seems to
14 be in the lateral recess [space in spinal canal toward the sides] where the traversing S1
15 nerve root should be, and compression deformity at L1. [emphasis added]" (Exhibit P).
16
17

18 9. On June 14, 2016, Plaintiff's spinal fusion postsurgical changes were
19 redemonstrated with hardware extending from L3-S1, and the changes appeared stable
20 with a stable L1 compression fracture. (Exhibit AF).
21

22 10. On July 4, 2016, Dr. Santos documented that Plaintiff has persistent low back
23 pain with numbness on the plantar aspect of both feet and shooting pain on the right
24 leg, Plaintiff stated he had difficulty walking due to the pain, morphine was discontinued
25 because of possible drug diversion, and Plaintiff requests surgery even though
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1 neurosurgeon stated it would likely improve his pain by about 20% from baseline.
2 (Exhibit P).
3

4 11. On July 14, 2016, Plaintiff was transported to Sharp Hospital complaining of
5 severe pain in his back and chest. (Exhibit AC).
6

7 12. At this visit, Plaintiff had an MRI showing no evidence of solid fusion between
8 the vertebral bodies, L2-3 spinal canal and lateral recess stenosis with impingement
9 (rubbing or pressure) of the traversing L3 nerve roots bilaterally, and left L5 neural
10 opening narrowing with equivocal nerve root impingement. (Exhibit AD).
11

12 13. On July 21, 2016, Plaintiff saw Dr. Yoo again due to back injuries. Dr. Yoo
13 agreed to do surgery to remove the hardware: L3 to ilium (large broad bone forming
14 upper part of each half of pelvis) posterior instrumentation (placement of screws and
15 rods) and L2-3 bilateral laminotomies (removal of roof of spinal canal). (Exhibit A, J)
16
17

18 14. On August 3, 2016, Dr. Roberts downgraded the request for treatment from
19 "urgent" to "routine." (Exhibit Q).
20

21 15. Dr. Santos noted that Plaintiff is doing miserably. He added the medical
22 decision-making process: Plaintiff understands he is a challenging patient and that any
23 further surgery may not be of any benefit to him, but he is so miserable that he has
24 attempted suicide and would like to proceed with surgery. Plaintiff was told there might
25 be a minimal possibility of only getting a small fraction of his pain resolved (less than
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1 20%), but he still wants to proceed. Per Dr. Yoo, Plaintiff needs a minimal procedure at
2 L2-3 or a giant procedure from T10 down to the ilium. (Exhibit J)
3

4 16. Dr. Santos requested authorization for all his recommendations: (1) Removal
5 of all posterior instrumentation to give Plaintiff some back pain relief and definite relief
6 of leg pain, (2) decompressive procedure with laminotomies to give him leg pain relief
7 and possibly back pain relief, and (3) if need be, anterior lumbar interbody fusion and
8 perhaps sacroiliac-iliac posterior fusion. (Exhibit J).
9
10

11 17. On December 6, 2016, Plaintiff saw Dr. Yoo again, who stated that he would
12 put Plaintiff on the schedule for back surgery soon. Despite that, Plaintiff never
13 received his back surgery. (Exhibit A).
14

15 18. On January 11, 2017, the back surgery was denied. (Exhibit R).
16

17 19. On January 31, 2017, Plaintiff was transported to Tri-City ED, complaining of
18 chronic back pain (currently 10/10) not relieved with his medications, hematuria (blood
19 in urine) since that morning, and the pain is radiating to the front, right side worse than
20 left. (Exhibit AE).
21

22 20. On April 11, 2017, urgent requests for an MRI of Plaintiff's lumbar spine with
23 and without contrasts were approved. (Exhibit S).
24

25 21. On September 18, 2017, Dr. Mossler documented Plaintiff's request to follow
26 up with Dr. Yoo because his surgery was denied. (Exhibit T).
27
28

1 22. Plaintiff has suffered excruciating pain in his lumbar area. He has to rock back
2 and forth to manage the pain. He has not received the back surgery that Dr. Yoo stated
3 that he needs. On multiple occasions, Plaintiff has been informed that his operation
4 was approved, only to hear later that it was denied.
5

6 23. On February 15, 2018, a CT scan of Plaintiff's lumbar spine was approved.
7 (Exhibit U).
8

9 24. On March 29, 2018, a CT of Plaintiff's lumbar spine was done. It showed
10 severe central canal and bilateral neural opening narrowing. (Exhibit AG).
11

12 25. On April 30, 2018, an MR lumbar spine without contrast was done. New
13 leftward curvature centered at L2-L3 and retrolisthesis (backward slippage) of L1 on L2
14 and L2 on L3 was found. Also found was new severe central canal narrowing at L2-L3
15 and mild central canal narrowing in the lower lumbar spine with probable compression
16 of the left exiting L5 nerve root. (Exhibit AH).
17

18 26. On May 2, 2018, Dr. Messler requested a bone density screening. (Exhibit V).
19

20 27. On May 25, 2018, Dr. Santos requested Plaintiff receive the neurosurgery
21 advised by Dr. Yoo. (Exhibit W).
22

23 28. On June 5, 2018, Dr. Yoo revised his surgery recommendation to a lateral L3-
24 L4 lumbar interbody fusion and posterior instrumented fusion with decompression and
25 possible hyperlordotic (excessive curving inward) graft at L2-L3 to give him some back
26 lordosis. Plaintiff also complained of numbness in his toes. (Exhibits Y and Z).
27
28

1 29. On July 17, 2018, the surgery was approved by Dr. Roberts. (Exhibit X).

2 30. On August 8, 2018, the IVMC denied the surgery for Plaintiff. (Exhibit AA).

3
4 31. After this denial, Plaintiff attempted suicide again and needed 47 staples in his
5 right arm.

6
7 32. Plaintiff was then transferred to Salinas Valley State Prison ("SVSP"). There,
8 they provided him methadone (pain medication) to mitigate the pain.

9
10 33. On a pain scale of 0-10, 10 being the worst pain ever and zero (0) being no
11 pain, the methadone reduced the pain from a 10 to a 7.

12
13 34. Although methadone helped reduce the pain, Plaintiff still suffered back pain
14 and had to rock back and forth continuously to manage the pain.

15
16 35. Plaintiff was transferred to Atascadero State Hospital, where they kept him on
17 the methadone, but suddenly transferred back to Richard J. Donovan, where he was
18 taken off the methadone due to his complaining about stomach issues and requesting to
19 get off it. (Exhibit C). However, the methadone was not replaced with anything else,
20 and the pain returned to at least an 8.

21
22 36. On March 7, 2019, Plaintiff was informed that his gabapentin (for nerve pain)
23 will be tapered off. (Exhibit C). He was on duloxetine and was being prescribed
24 ibuprofen and Tylenol.

25
26 37. Also on March 7, 2019, Plaintiff stated a willingness to participate in physical
27 therapy. (Exhibit C)
28

1 38. On March 15, 2019, Plaintiff complained that his pain is an eight (8) out of a
2 10 daily and getting no comfort, and said he is filing a grievance against the doctor who
3 took him off methadone. (Exhibit D).
4

5 39. On March 27, 2019, Plaintiff saw his primary care provider (PCP) for a follow-
6 up from chest pain and was advised narcotic pain medications are not used for chronic
7 pain and was referred to physical therapy. (Exhibit C)
8

9 40. On April 4, 2019, Plaintiff told a nurse that his current treatment was not
10 enough to manage his pain, and the nurse said he does not meet the criteria to go back
11 on methadone. (Exhibit C).
12

13 41. On April 4, 2019, Plaintiff filed a health care grievance (602 HC) stating he is in
14 severe pain in his lower back and down his right leg. He suffers daily without proper
15 pain medication and requests adequate pain medication. (Exhibit D).
16
17

18 42. On April 23, 2019, the PCP documented narcotics would not be ordered for
19 pain management, and Plaintiff was advised to continue with duloxetine (nerve pain
20 medication) and acetaminophen. (Exhibit B)
21

22 43. On May 29, 2019, Plaintiff refused physical therapy because it was too painful.
23 (Exhibits B and G)
24

25 44. On July 9, 2019, the PCP wrongly documented that Plaintiff did not appear in
26 pain. Narcotics would not be prescribed, and Plaintiff, in desperation, agreed to take
27 ibuprofen and nortriptyline (nerve pain medication). (See Exhibit B).
28

1 45. Ever since he was transferred to VSP, Plaintiff's pain has continued, but he has
2 not gotten pain medication or the surgery.
3

4 46. On January 8, 2020, Plaintiff saw Dr. Son and expressed that he is in severe
5 back pain and needs adequate pain medication. (Exhibit G).
6

7 47. Dr. Son refused to prescribe pain medication. (Exhibit G).
8

9 48. On January 9, 2020, Plaintiff filed a grievance about the visit with Dr. Son on
10 January 8 and mentioned he was given Lyrica (nerve pain medication) and a nerve study
11 in 2014. A specialist said he needed back surgery back in July 2016. (Exhibit F).
12

13 49. On February 21, 2020, Plaintiff was seen by Dr. Son. He noted that Plaintiff
14 had an MRI of his spine on April 30, 2018, which suggested he needed surgery. A
15 Request for Services was submitted for his surgery and was denied on June 22, 2018.
16 Dr. Son advised Plaintiff to complete physical therapy, and then his case may be referred
17 to the Pain Management Committee (PMC). (Exhibit G).
18

19 50. On March 6, 2020, Plaintiff was seen by Dr. Son, and his back pain was
20 reviewed. They discussed continuing mental health and physical therapy consultations.
21 (Exhibit E).
22

23 51. On March 17, 2020, the Dr. Longia reviewed Plaintiff's grievance (Exhibit G)
24 and wrongly stated that Plaintiff reported no sleep interruptions due to pain, performed
25 his activities of daily living, and was able to pick up clothes from the floor and pull them
26 back up. He could pick up clothes and pull them back up one time but cannot keep
27
28

1 doing that. He also wrongly wrote that Plaintiff had good lateral flexion and rotation
2 movement. He correctly stated that the extension limitations are most likely from
3 instrumentation laminectomies. Also, he stated that Plaintiff performed a straight leg
4 raising test with no reproducible symptoms, but Plaintiff does not remember that. He
5 denied Plaintiff's request for pain medication or surgery. (Exhibit G).
6
7

8 52. Instrumentation laminectomies are often the result of hardware, which Dr.
9 Yoo advised Plaintiff have surgery to get removed. (Exhibit A).
10

11 53. On April 9, 2020, Plaintiff again saw Dr. Son who examined his back. It was
12 documented that he takes ibuprofen and amitriptyline (nerve pain medication). His
13 back was examined, and despite him having recommendations from at least one
14 specialist for surgery, Dr. Son did not document a medical indication for back surgery or
15 additional medications. (Exhibit E).
16
17

18 54. On July 31, 2020, Plaintiff saw Dr. Son and requested a referral for spinal
19 surgery, orthotic shoes, hardware removal from his left thigh bone, pain medications,
20 and physical therapy. A physical exam could not be performed because Plaintiff could
21 not get out of his wheelchair. (Exhibit L).
22
23

24 55. Dr. Son requested an orthopedic surgeon to evaluate Plaintiff's back issues
25 further and ordered an x-ray of Plaintiff's left thigh bone. (Exhibit L).
26
27

28 56. Dr. Son determined orthotic footwear was not needed because Plaintiff
cannot walk. (Exhibit L).

1 57. Dr. Son denied Plaintiff's request for Lyrica, morphine, and methadone and
2 placed orders only for ibuprofen. (Exhibit L).
3

4 58. On August 4, 2020, a nurse documented Plaintiff had chronic low back pain,
5 seven (7) surgeries from 2005-2010, and that his back pain has gotten progressively
6 worse, radiating down to his right leg, affecting his daily life activities, and cannot walk.
7 (Exhibit I).
8

9 59. On August 13, 2020, an x-ray was done because of Plaintiff's left thigh bone
10 pain. (Exhibit AI).
11

12 60. On August 20, 2020, Plaintiff was seen by a PCP for a Chronic Care Program
13 appointment. Although Plaintiff is documented as refusing a physical examination, he
14 does not remember refusing one. (Exhibit L).
15

16 61. On August 26, 2020, an officer documented that Plaintiff spends 23 hours per
17 day on his bunk, wants to be seen by PMC to get adequate pain medications, and
18 attends chow and ducats but does not participate in the dayroom or yard activities.
19 (Exhibit O).
20

21 62. The officer also documented that Plaintiff has been on his pain medications
22 for two (2) years. (Exhibit O).
23

24 63. On August 28, 2020, Plaintiff saw Dr. Farr, a board-certified orthopedic
25 surgeon with a fellowship in spine surgery. (Exhibits H and AB).
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1 64. Dr. Farr documented stenosis (a medical condition where the spinal canal
2 narrows and compresses the nerves and blood vessels at the level of the lumbar
3 vertebrae) at the L2-L3 level with prior fusion at the L3-L4, L4-L5, and L5-S1. He
4 documented that Plaintiff has difficulty with his walking pattern, using a wheelchair and
5 an assistive device for walking. He recommended repeat MRI, most likely extending the
6 fusion at L2-L3, that hardware removal could be helpful; Plaintiff needs an
7 Electromyography (“EMG”) nerve conduction study (measures muscle response to a
8 nerve’s stimulation of the muscle). He also believed that Plaintiff will eventually need a
9 spinal cord stimulator (device that sends low levels of electricity into the spinal cord to
10 relieve pain). For now, a CT scan of the lumbar to confirm there is actual fusion taken
11 place before removing the hardware. (Exhibit H).

12
13
14 65. On September 25, 2020, Plaintiff saw his Dr. Son for a follow-up with
15 orthopedics. Dr. Son noted that Plaintiff has a history of seven back surgeries, and there
16 is a high risk of worsening back issues with additional surgeries and low potential for
17 improvement. He declined to follow through with Dr. Farr’s order for a CT scan and
18 nerve study. Plaintiff’s back pain will be conservatively managed and will continue to
19 take Motrin and Tylenol for pain. (Exhibit L).

20
21
22 66. On November 3, 2020, Plaintiff was seen by PCP to discuss topical
23 medications, and it was recommended he continue using Tylenol and Capsaicin cream.
24 (Exhibit N).

1 67. Also on November 3, 2020, Dr. Longia denied Plaintiff's request for spinal
2 surgery, Lyrica, orthopedic footwear, removal of the femur screw, and accommodations.
3
4 (Exhibit L).

5 68. On November 15, 2020, Plaintiff submitted a Reasonable Accommodation
6 Request asking for surgery because his constant shoulder pain makes using the
7 bathroom hard. He noted that he mentioned this to Dr. Son. Dr. Son said he must file
8 paperwork to go to court to do anything. (Exhibit AO).
9
10

11 69. On November 16, 2020, Plaintiff was interviewed and again stated his
12 shoulder was in pain and his awareness of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA")
13 assistant workers and the shower chair available in the housing unit. (Exhibit AP).
14

15 70. On January 8, 2021, Plaintiff was seen by the PCP in the Triage and Treatment
16 Area ("TTA") for complaints of lower back and shoulder pain, notes indicate that he was
17 given education on diet and weight loss recommendations, and ketorolac back
18 injections were ordered. (Exhibit M). Ketorolac injections are not supposed to be done
19 longer than five (5) days.
20
21

22 71. On January 11, 2021, Dr. Longia denied Plaintiff's request to be seen by the
23 Pain Management Committee for adequate pain medications, and for accommodations.
24 (Exhibit N).
25

26 72. On February 21, 2021, an order for gabapentin was placed. (Exhibit M)
27
28

1 73. On February 22, 2021, Plaintiff was seen by the PCP in the TTA, who did not
2 document that a PMC review was medically indicated. (Exhibit M).
3

4 74. On February 23, 2021, Plaintiff returned from a "higher level of care," and the
5 on-call provider ordered gabapentin and Capsaicin cream for his lower back pain.
6 (Exhibit AS).
7

8 75. On February 24, 2021, Plaintiff filed a grievance noting he was given adequate
9 pain medication at the Madera Community Hospital and is in severe pain now and needs
10 to see a specialist. (Exhibits AR and AV).
11

12 76. Also on February 24, 2021, Plaintiff saw Dr. Mevi for admission into the
13 Outpatient Housing Unit. Noted was his long history of chronic lower back pain status
14 post L2-3 fusion and the significant narcotics he was given while in the acute care
15 hospital with COVID-19, pneumonia, and respiratory failure. Dr. Mevi explained that
16 narcotics are not indicated for chronic pain management. His pain was to be managed
17 stepwise with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), acetaminophen, and
18 possibly tricyclic antidepressants. Dr. Mevi ordered naproxen (NSAID) for lower back
19 pain. (Exhibit AS).
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24 77. On March 8, 2021, Dr. Mevi ordered Tylenol for lower back pain. (Exhibit AS).

25 78. On March 10, 2021, Plaintiff was seen by a PCP, who ordered a lumbar spinal
26 MRI. (See Exhibit AK).
27
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1 79. On March 16, 2021, Dr. Mevi denied Plaintiff's requests for medication, a
2 specialty referral, shoulder surgery, and accommodations. (Exhibit AN).
3

4 80. On March 17, 2021, Plaintiff received a response to the Reasonable
5 Accommodation Panel that provided no interim accommodation because he could move
6 and had his wheelchair. (Exhibit AU).
7

8 81. On March 19, 2021, Dr. Mevi's request for EMG for complaints of low back
9 pain was submitted and approved. (Exhibit M).
10

11 82. On March 22, 2021, Plaintiff appealed that decision asking to see a specialist
12 and have the surgery if needed. (Exhibit AM).
13

14 83. On April 5, 2021, Plaintiff was seen by Dr. Mevi and was noted discharged
15 from the Outpatient Housing Unit ("OHU"). Dr. Mevi kicked him out for complaining
16 about his back pain and not receiving adequate medication. His complaint then was
17 back pain with right leg sciatica (pain radiating down along the sciatic nerve) managed
18 with gabapentin, naproxen, Tylenol, and Capsaicin cream. (Exhibit AS).
19
20

21 84. On April 14, 2021, Plaintiff filed a grievance saying he was in severe pain, had
22 just spent 37 days in OHU, and was not given adequate pain medication and that he got
23 his 1824 Reasonable Accountability Request sheet back. They failed to do the Armstrong
24 Remedies Plan on him. (Exhibit AT).
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1 85. On April 28, 2021, Plaintiff filed an appeal because he was not satisfied with
2 his response, and he suffers every day, and an investigation should have occurred into
3 violations because he is protected by ADA. (Exhibit AT).
4

5 86. On April 29, 2021, Dr. Longia denied Plaintiff's request for pain medication
6 and to see a specialist. (Exhibit AS).
7

8 87. On May 2, 2021, Plaintiff filed an appeal stating he was in severe pain, 8/10
9 sometimes 10/10, and that he has told his doctors every time he has seen them and
10 asks for help. (Exhibit AR).
11

12 88. On May 5, 2021, Plaintiff's lumbar spine x-ray was completed. (Exhibit AK).
13

14 89. On May 10, 2021, Plaintiff was seen Dr. Son, where his lumbar spinal x-ray
15 results were reviewed. He was told to stay with his treatment of omeprazole (acid
16 reducer) and ibuprofen. (Exhibits AK).
17

18 90. On May 20, 2021, Plaintiff filed a grievance mentioning he complained on May
19 9, 2021, and May 19, 2021, about his severe back pain and the doctor not doing
20 anything about it, and requesting an investigation into the violation of his civil rights.
21 (Exhibit AX).
22

23 91. On May 27, 2021, Plaintiff submitted a Health Care Services Request form
24 regarding his pain. (Exhibit AK).
25

26 92. On May 28, 2021, Plaintiff was seen by Dr. Son and reminded of the upcoming
27 nerve study and EMG with neurology. (Exhibit AK).
28

1 93. On June 2, 2021, Plaintiff was seen by Dr. Son. It was noted that he would
2 continue gabapentin while Tylenol was adjusted for better pain coverage. Orders for a
3 nerve study and EMG were approved pending scheduling. Physical therapy was
4 approved, but the frequency was limited due to therapist availability. (Exhibit AL).
5

6 94. On June 3, 2021, Plaintiff's request for a CT scan, MRI, and nerve conduction
7 study was denied. (Exhibit AJ).
8

9 95. On June 4, 2021, Plaintiff saw the nurse for back and shoulder pain
10 complaints. (Exhibit AL).
11

12 96. On June 24, 2021, Plaintiff's appeal for medication and to see a specialist was
13 denied at the headquarters level. (Exhibit AQ).
14

15 97. In June 2021, a nerve study was done and Plaintiff was determined to have
16 nerve damage and immediately placed on Lyrica.
17

18 98. On October 4, 2021, Dr. Mevi noted that Plaintiff would be referred to a
19 physical therapist and is awaiting neurosurgery consultation. (Exhibit AW).
20

21 99. On October 5, 2021, Plaintiff's appeal regarding his severe pain, Dr. Mevi
22 refusing to do anything to relieve his pain, and asking for an investigation into the
23 violation of his civil rights was denied. (Exhibit AW).
24

25 100. A CT scan and MRI were performed in March 2022.

26 101. On at least one occasion each, Dr. Son kicked Plaintiff out of the doctor's
27 office because he was complaining of pain.
28

1 102. Dr. Mevi saw Plaintiff in October 2022, and reduced his Tramadol despite his
2 excruciating pain. He said reducing Plaintiff's dosage from 3-a-day to 2-a-day won't
3 affect him much. He also re-ordered physical therapy, and an increase in duloxetine
4 without telling Plaintiff of the change. (Exhibit AY).
5

6 103. Plaintiff was seen by Dr. Mevi again, who noted no changes since his last
7 evaluation, and he was functional in performing all his activities of daily living without
8 assistance, and was able to transfer himself from his wheelchair to his bed without any
9 assistance. (Exhibit AY). Even if he does not have assistance, that does not acknowledge
10 the pain he is in. The Health Care CEO wrongly noted that Plaintiff is not in any agony or
11 pain. (Exhibit AY).
12
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15 104. Plaintiff reports his current pain level is ranges from 8-10 out of 10. (Exhibits
16 AZ, and BB pp. 173). Despite that, Dr. Eskander never ordered the surgery.
17

18 105. On January 26, 2023, Plaintiff had another appointment with Dr. Yoo.
19 (Exhibit BA). Dr. Yoo reported that Plaintiff remains "highly symptomatic with adjacent
20 disc disease at L2-3" and requested authorization for "L2-3 lateral lumbar interbody
21 fusion, T9 to pelvis posterior instrumented fusion, L1-2 and L2-3 laminectomies." He
22 also stated Plaintiff should "have optimization of his pain meds as the radiographic
23 studies indicate he be in significant pain." (Exhibit BA).
24
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1 106. On multiple occasions from December 11, 2022 through April 6, 2023,
2 Plaintiff filed health care service request forms indicating he is in severe pain and
3 pleading for help. (Exhibit BB).
4

5 107. Plaintiff was supposed to be seen by medical on March 6, 2023 (Exhibit BC),
6 and he was not.
7

8 108. Dr. Eskander tried putting Plaintiff on Suboxone. Plaintiff had bad side
9 effects, such as vomiting. Plaintiff stopped taking it after 23 days, due to side effects and
10 not feeling any relief. (Exhibit BB, p. 182).
11

12 109. On March 10, 2023, Dr. Eskander saw Plaintiff again and ordered no further
13 pain management despite knowing about Plaintiff's excruciating pain.
14

15 110. Dr. Sandhu is Plaintiff's current doctor. Despite Plaintiff's excruciating pain,
16 Dr. Sandhu has not ordered the surgery requested by Dr. Yoo or pain medications for
17 Plaintiff beyond Tylenol and Capsaicin. As Plaintiff's current physician, he is able to order
18 surgery or medications for Plaintiff.
19
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21

22 **EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

23 111. Insofar as required, Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative remedies
24 under the Prison Litigation Reform Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997e.
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1 112. Plaintiff has exhausted his required remedies under California law. His
2 Government Claim, number 21005914, was rejected on December 22, 2021. Plaintiff
3
4 sent the required notice under Cal. Code of Civ. Pro. § 364, on or around June 16, 2022.
5

6
7 ***COUNT 1 – DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE TO SERIOUS MEDICAL NEEDS***

8 113. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-incorporates paragraphs 6 through 110.

9
10 114. The government’s failure to meet its “obligation to provide medical care for
11 those whom it is punishing by incarceration,” can constitute an Eighth Amendment
12 violation cognizable under § 1983. *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 103–05 (1976). To
13 prevail on § 1983 claim for inadequate medical care, a plaintiff must show “deliberate
14 indifference” to “serious medical needs.” *Id.* at 104. This includes “both an objective
15 standard—that the deprivation was serious enough to constitute cruel and unusual
16 punishment—and a subjective standard—deliberate indifference.” *Snow v. McDaniel*,
17 [681 F.3d 978, 985 (9th Cir. 2012), overruled in part on other grounds by *Peralta v.*
18 *Dillard*, 744 F.3d 1076 (9th Cir. 2014) (en banc)].
19
20
21

22 115. Plaintiff saw a specialist who said he needed surgery. He saw another one
23 who said he needed surgery. He has been denied repeatedly. He has repeatedly
24 informed the prison of his pain and received inadequate pain medications. When he
25 was taken off the methadone due to his request, he thought he would be put on
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1 something else instead of nothing. Plaintiff has been suffering for years, despite his
2 repeated complaints to prison staff.
3

4 116. Dr. Son acted with deliberate indifference when he denied Plaintiff pain
5 medications beyond Tylenol and Ibuprofen, Dr. Farr's order for a CT scan and nerve
6 study, and kicked Plaintiff out of the doctor's office for complaining of pain.
7

8 117. Dr. Mevi acted with deliberate indifference when he denied Plaintiff x-rays, a
9 nerve study, and sufficient pain medications, when he kicked Plaintiff out of the
10 infirmary because he was complaining of pain, and when he reduced Plaintiff's
11 Tramadol dosage and added Duloxetine without telling Plaintiff.
12

13 118. Dr. Longia acted with deliberate indifference when he purposely understated
14 Plaintiff's pain and disability, denied him surgery, adequate pain medications, femur
15 screw removal, and accommodations.
16

17 119. Dr. Eskander acted with deliberate indifference when, despite knowing
18 about Plaintiff's excruciating pain, did not put him on anything to sufficiently mitigate
19 the pain, and did not order the surgery.
20

21 120. Dr. Sandhu acts with deliberate indifference when he does not order the
22 surgery or sufficient pain medications for Plaintiff despite knowing about his
23 excruciating back pain.
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1 121. As a result of the deliberate indifference of prison staff, Plaintiff lives every
2 day in excruciating back pain, violating his rights under the Eighth and Fourteenth
3 Amendments against cruel and unusual punishment.
4

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6
7 **COUNT 2 – NEGLIGENCE**

8 122. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-incorporates paragraphs 6 through 110.

9 123. Plaintiff's status as an inmate in CDCR creates a level of dependency, in
10 which inmates detrimentally rely on prison staff for protection from other inmates. That
11 creates a "special relationship" and establishes a duty of care for the prison staff to
12 protect Plaintiff. *Giraldo v. California Dep't of Corr. Rehab.*, 168 Cal. App. 4th 231, 252-
13 53, 85 Cal. Rptr. 3d 371, 387 (2008).
14
15

16 124. Plaintiff saw a specialist who said he needed surgery. He saw another one
17 who said he needed surgery. He has been denied repeatedly. He has repeatedly
18 informed the prison of his pain and received inadequate pain medications. When he
19 was taken off the methadone due to his request, he thought he would be put on
20 something else instead of nothing. Plaintiff has been suffering for years, despite his
21 repeated complaints to prison staff.
22
23
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25 125. Dr. Son acted negligently when he denied Plaintiff pain medications beyond
26 Tylenol and Ibuprofen, Dr. Farr's order for a CT scan and nerve study, and kicked Plaintiff
27 out of the doctor's office for complaining of pain.
28

1 126. Dr. Mevi acted with deliberate indifference when he denied Plaintiff x-rays, a
2 nerve study, and sufficient pain medications, and when he kicked Plaintiff out of the
3 infirmary because he was complaining of pain.
4

5 127. Dr. Longia acted with deliberate indifference when he purposely understated
6 Plaintiff's pain and disability, denied him surgery, adequate pain medications, femur
7 screw removal, and accommodations.
8

9 128. As a result of not being provided his back surgery and pain medications,
10 Plaintiff lives every day in excruciating back pain from the negligence of prison staff.
11
12

13
14 ***REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER***

15 129. Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer excruciating pain if
16 Defendants do not have to order his surgery and allow him pain medications.
17

18 130. Based on the time legal remedies would take and the continuing severe pain,
19 there is no adequate remedy at law.
20

21 131. Plaintiff has a substantial likelihood of prevailing on the merits because of
22 the recommendations of two specialists, his repeated complaints about his severe pain,
23 and the prison's failure to address it.
24

25 132. The injury faced by Plaintiff outweighs the harm sustained by Defendants if
26 the TRO were granted. The injury faced by Plaintiff is excruciating pain in his back. In
27
28

1 contrast, Defendants would face little to no harm approving the surgery and pain
2 medications.

3
4 133. Issuing a TRO would not hurt the public interest. Neither the defendants, the
5 public, nor other inmates would experience a problem with Plaintiff getting his back
6 surgery, pain medications, and finally having relief. On the contrary, enforcing
7 constitutional rights serves the public interest.
8

9
10 134. Plaintiff can post a bond under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(c)
11 depending on the amount. (See ECF Doc. No. 1-2.)

12 REQUEST FOR RELIEF

13
14 Plaintiff requests this Court grant the following relief:

- 15 1. Set his application for injunction for hearing at the earliest possible time.
16
17 2. Issue a temporary restraining order until a hearing can be held, requiring
18 Chief Gates to order Plaintiff receive the back surgery recommended by Dr. Yoo in ¶ 105
19 and pain medications.
20
21 3. After the hearing is held, issue an injunction requiring Chief Gates to
22 order Plaintiff receive the back surgery recommended by Dr. Yoo in ¶ 105, and pain
23 medications.
24
25 4. Cost of prosecuting these claims with attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. §
26 1988 and any relevant California statutes, against all Defendants.
27
28

1 5. Compensatory damages against all defendants sued in their individual
2 capacities.

3
4 6. Punitive damages against all defendants sued in their individual
5 capacities.

6
7 7. Prejudgment and postjudgment interest against all defendants sued in
8 their individual capacities.

9 8. Any other relief that the Court, in exercising its wisdom and judgment,
10
11 deems proper.

12 DATED: June 6, 2023.

13
14 By: s/ Benjamin Rudin
15 BENJAMIN RUDIN
16 Attorney for Plaintiff
17 Kevin Hagan
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